

American Academy of Pediatrics recommends skin testing for this group at the time of immigration, and every two to three years thereafter.¹⁸ The diets of migrant preschool children in North Carolina have also been found to be deficient.¹⁹ Comparisons of the health status of migrant children and children from the general population on the east coast showed that migrant children are almost three times more likely to be reported in fair or poor health.²⁰

GENERAL HEALTH STATUS OF ADULTS²¹

Overall, Latino adults appear to be relatively healthy in North Carolina. For example, Latino adults are less likely to report being in fair or poor health (11.3%), as compared to non-Latino whites (15.8%) or non-Latino African Americans (20.9%).²² Latinos also have lower age-adjusted death rates than whites or African Americans (Table 4:6). They are less likely to die from cancer, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, pneumonia and influenza, chronic lung or liver disease, septicemia, nephritis, suicide, or other injuries than either whites or African Americans, but are more likely to die from motor vehicle crashes (See Appendix A, Table A:2). Latinos are also more likely to die from AIDS and homicides than whites, although less likely than African Americans. (See Appendix A, Table A:2).

Table 4:6
Number of Deaths and Age-adjusted Death Rates by Ethnicity and Race
Among North Carolina Residents, 1999-2000
(Deaths per 100,000 Population)²³

	Latino		White		African American	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
All causes (per 1,000)	1,089	5.9	108,392	8.9	30,980	11.9
Cancer	112	76.3	24,682	197.0	6,494	250.8
Diabetes	23	17.5	2,596	20.9	1,458	57.0
Heart disease	125	99.4	30,494	251.6	7,887	312.5
Stroke	37	31.0	8,684	72.8	2,509	101.3
Pneumonia & Influenza	12	9.9	3,115	26.4	658	26.5
Chronic lung disease	10	7.2	6,392	51.5	833	33.3
Chronic liver disease	9	4.6	1,157	9.2	329	11.3
Septicemia	8	5.5	1,391	11.5	640	25.5
Nephritis	7	4.8	1,537	12.7	877	34.9
Suicide	29	4.1	1,612	13.4	189	5.4
AIDS	18	3.7	201	1.7	716	21.6
Homicides	122	17	564	4.8	669	18.7
Motor vehicle injuries	242	30.7	2,338	19.9	713	21.4
Other injuries	84	12.6	2,700	22.7	763	26.2

Source: Buescher P. State Center for Health Statistics. Presentation to NC Institute of Medicine Latino Health Task Force. June 12, 2002. Analysis of Death Certificate Data (1999-2000).

While Latinos are generally less likely to have the chronic conditions that lead to premature deaths, they are more likely than whites but less likely than African Americans to have certain sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) (Table 4:7).